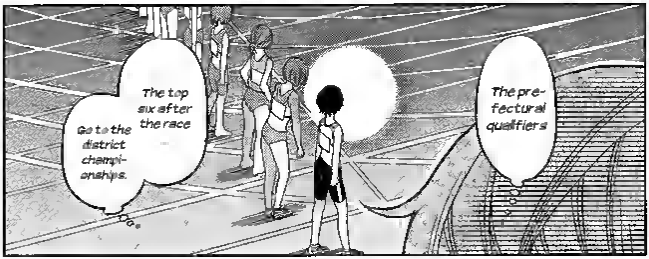
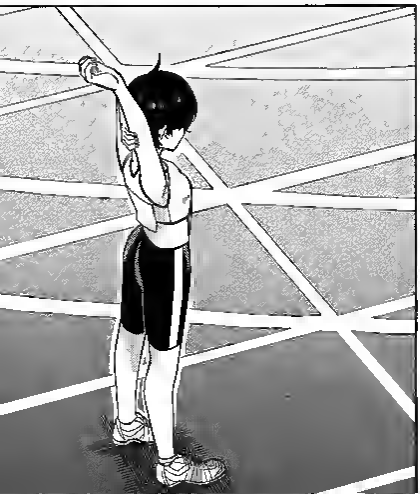

The prefectural qualifiers
The top six after the race
Go to the district championships.



And then, there are the nationals.

Mizuki.
If we managed to get this far...
Then we can surely go even further.
陸上部
陸上
I'm allowed to belie-ve that, right?
きゅ…

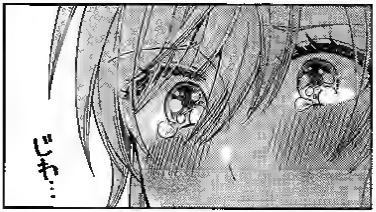
Chapter 17: The very last day

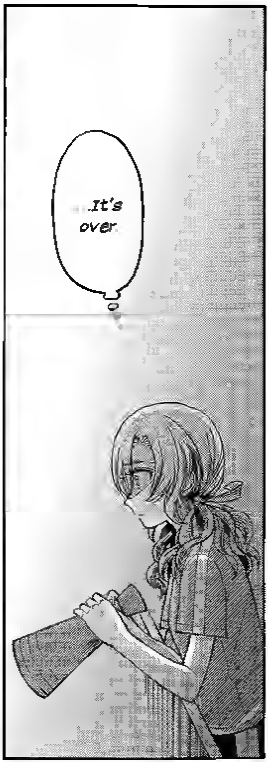
あの娘にキスと白百合を

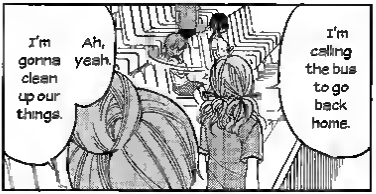
A Kiss and a White Lily for Her

Canno
缶乃

Seventh place.


じゃ…


...It's over.


I'm calling the bus to go back home.
Ah, yeah.
I'm gonna clean up our things.

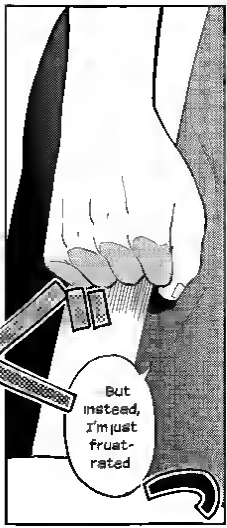
It's Mizuki who ran, so I shouldn't be the one crying
It's alright.

I'm gonna praise her, as always.
I'm gonna thank her for running for me.
And since she'll probably cry a bit, I'll smile and tell her...
That everything's fine as always.
Ah...

*end of the call

Thanks for running for me, Mizuki.
It was your best race so far
I was always watching you, you know

Mizuki! What's wrong?
Are you hurt some-where?
……


But instead, I'm just fruat-rated

It's strange.
You're praising me as always
Yet I just can't feel satisfied

……?
I should be happy that you were wat-ching me.
Somethin different?

I had forgotten that running for my own sake could be this painful
But...
Sorry

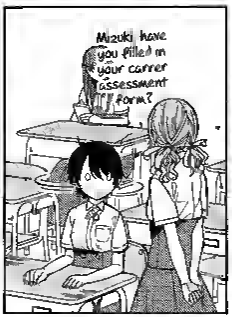
I would like to be alone...

In the end Mizuki came back just before our departure. her eyes swollen.
But she wanted to do it alone
And she kept crying during the whole trip back.

So I couldn't cry with her
Hello
Hello

BONK
Mizuki, were you alright, yeste...
...It seems she's got back up on her feet

Forget what I said.
UGH
Ouch...


Mizuki have you filled in your career assessment form?

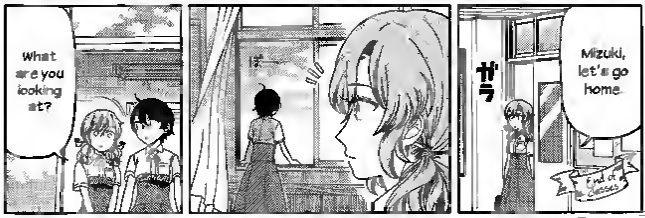
Mizuki your class is over there.

Mizuki you forgot your shoes.
She's even more out of it than usual

I must at least remain strong
This is no time for crying.

WELL IT WAS OUR LAST SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER ALL
I GUESS IT WAS A SHOCK FOR HER.
ぼ——…
in a daze

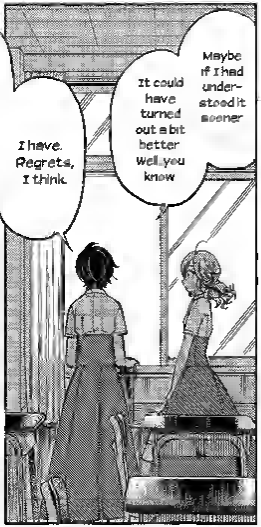
The saga of Hoshi's remedies to remotivate Mizuki
Present
Do you plan on fattening me up so you can eat me?
I made cookies and cakes for you.
Past
Bento
Aaaaah
Eh…!
I must remotivate her!

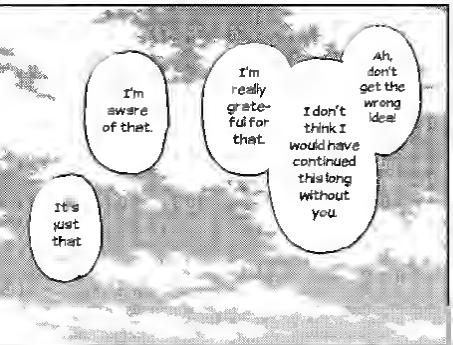

What are you looking at?
ガラ
Mizuki, let's go home.
End of classes

Do you still want to run?
I was just thinking that it was the last time I'd be able to run like that

Honestly I'm really frustrated that it all ended at the prefectural level
And I understood that by telling myself "I do all this for Mae"...
I was fooling myself into ignoring my own feelings

Regrets
I've been thinking about all this since the championships

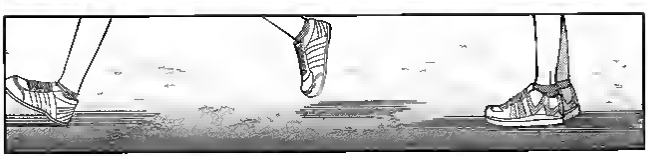

I have. Regrets, I think.
It could have turned out a bit better, well, you know
Maybe if I had understood it sooner


I'm aware of that.
I'm really grateful for that.
Ah, don't get the wrong idea!
I don't think I would have continued this long without you.
It's just that

Right now, I think...
That I can be a better me while running
If you run again, you will regain your spirit?
She really did get back on her feet a great deal
That's what I feel
You're too close...
Okay, Leave it to me

So
You called Kurosawa for this
Since you've never beaten her, she's perfect for the role.
That's quite the feat to have convinced her, though.
Warming up...
Oh, I used the right arguments
And a few photos
Photos?
You're worrying me there...!
If it can revitalize you, I'll use any means necessary
I didn't want to give it to you...
But I have a photo of Ayaka (and Mizuki) in kindergarten.
Deal.
Well, in any case.
ぽん

Yeah.
Be sure to make her bite the dust.
For your own sake

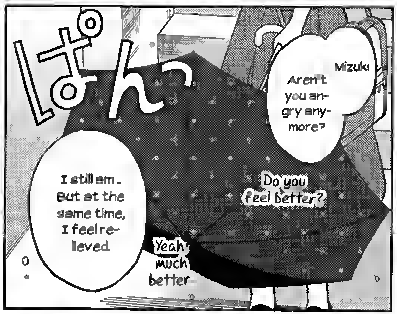


Still your awesome self, aren't you.
I'm gonna win, anyway
I don't really care.
Maybe we should have put on the same shoes?
Thanks for your cooperation Kurosawa.
No problem

She told me that this time around you were the one to ask for this?"
What's gotten into you?
I just have the feeling that I can defeat you right now —
I think?
Hmmm...
ヒッ

True, since that day, Mizuki has stayed alone...
It may be the proof that she has become stronger.
I would like to be alone.
What should I do...?
But in that case...

Ahaha
Yep, but I still lost.
ザァァァ
Now it's raining, to boot...
And I was sure that you were gonna win this one


ぽん
Mizuki
Aren't you angry anymore?
Do you feel better?
I still am. But at the same time, I feel relieved.
Yeah, much better

I'm walking you to the bus stop
You wanna share my umbrella?
Hm

Yeah, that's it...

If it was still not enough to win, then that's it.

I think I'm gonna stop track running.
But at least, it allowed me to end this properly.

I won't stop running completely, since I love it.
I wished you'd continue
But at this point, running is closely related to you in my mind.

Really

I don't want to have the same regrets again.
So I must think seriously about what I want to do from now on.
And I must do it by myself, without relying on you
And sorry to cause you so much trouble
Thank you.
It's also thanks to you that I came to think this way

No
Did I say something weird?!

Sob
I'm not crying
Moe?! Why are you crying?!
Of course you are!
Don't try to look tough!!

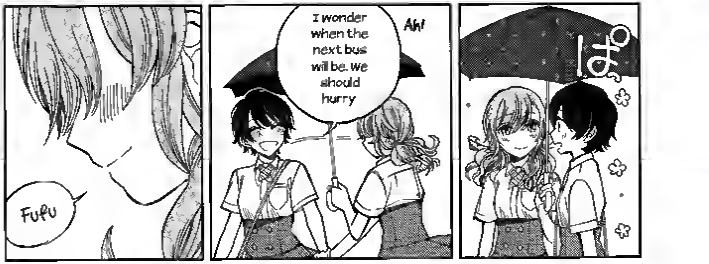
When I realized that, I
You can run even if I'm not with you
But. It's really over, now
I've been holding it back since that day
23
You know, Moe
Now that's embarrassing...
Even though I was a sobbing mess back then...
Hm
You've been holding it back

I'm the only one looking
You can cry as much as you want

ピク

I'm beat
I think I just cried for five years
Say, Moe
Oh no! I just thought that you were just as cute even when you cry, that's all!
Is my crying face that funny?
You've been staring at it
the very first person to listen to it? Even before my parents?
Would you be.
If I find what I want to do

Of course.
We share a bond, after all

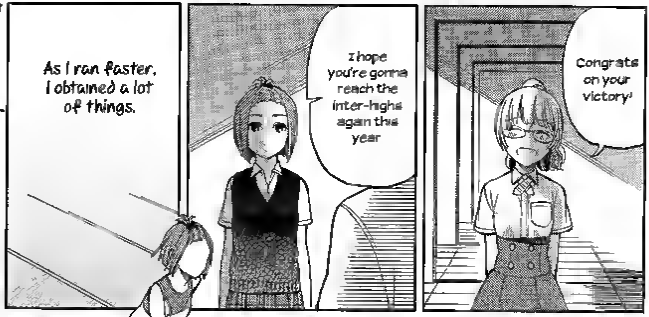

Fufu
I wonder when the next bus will be. We should hurry
Ah!
Ufufu

Never mind
Sorry?
What did you say?
You could have kissed me a bit more seriously geez
Ufufu

The Little Theater of KnoKiss

~Behind the scenes~

The Other Championship.


As I ran faster, I obtained a lot of things.
I hope you're gonna reach the inter-highs again this year
Congrats on your victory!

You're really incredible.
And I made a few new friends during the training camp.
The teachers take their hats off to me.
I've become rather famous at school.

Maho
3rd year in Sarari's track team. Has a peaceful character

Compared to me, who barely accomplished anything in 3 years.
I feel like you're on another planet.
It's strange
The faster I go, the greater the distance between us becomes, for some reason.

Yumeko
2nd year in a co-ed public high school. She and Maho have known each other for a long time.

proof-reading by Arawyre (Underdog Scans)